

II. Paul, the New Testament Sage – The Foolish Man becomes Wise

a. The Achievement of Paul, the young man

⁴... If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. Philippians 3:4-6

b. A Paradigm shift in Paul's value system

⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:7-11

c. A New Pursuit of Life

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14

Christ— the ultimate wisdom of God

(1 Corinthians 1:30)

COMMENTS, PRAYERS AND PRAISES

We have a team of people who are praying for our church body regularly. If you have a praise item or prayer request that you would like to share with our prayer warriors or a comment for church leaders, please complete the form below.

Name _____
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Please pass along my prayer/praise but without my name

June 5, 2011

Advice on Wisdom

Proverbs

deals with _____, not theoretical speculations

contains _____, not promises

assumes a _____ for God

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10

I. Solomon, the Old Testament Sage – The Wise Man Becomes Foolish

a. Solomon has a Deep Respect for God

²“...So be strong, act like a man, ³ and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in obedience to Him, and keep His decrees and commands, His laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go” 1 Kings 2:2-3

“Solomon showed his love for the LORD by walking according to the instructions given him by his father David...” 1 Kings 3:3

b. Solomon is humble before God

⁷“...But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸Your servant is here among the people You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹So give Your servant a discerning heart to govern Your people and to distinguish between right and wrong...” 1 Kings 3:7-9

c. Solomon becomes a Wise Man with Great Success

²³“King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. ²⁴The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.” 1 Kings 10:23-24

d. The Wisest Man becomes Foolish

“As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods...” 1 Kings 11:4

e. The Old Fool Repents and becomes Wise again

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. Ecclesiastes 12:13

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